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DARIEN CT.

COMMISSION ON AGING
TOWN HALL
DARIEN, CONNECTICUT 06820

Meeting: June 17, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM.

Present: Joseph Pankowski, Jennifer Geddes, Mary Giarratana, Norman Guimond, Ron Heinbaugh, Karen Joelson, Mary McCarthy, Amy Squyres. Also in attendance: Olive Hauser (ex-officio/social services) and Linda Santarella (Selectmen's Liaison).

Linda Santarella brought up the fact that Karl Kilduff's name was misspelled.

The minutes of the May 20th meeting were approved.

Aging In Place: Karen Joelson read the survey questions. Questions and discussion followed. Norman Guimond and the subcommittee will report back at the next meeting.

- Norman Guimond spoke about the subcommittee and about getting volunteers to go to the various establishments – to be the contacts.

The following members will be the contact person / liaison at:

- Social Services > Jennifer Geddes
- DCA > Karen Joelson and Amy Squyres
- Senior Men's > Norman Guimond
- Aging In Place > Amy Squyres
- Red Cross > Norman Guimond
- CT Commission On Aging > Jennifer Geddes
- Senior Center > Ron Heinbaugh and Mary Giarratana
- Parking & Recreation Dept. > Joseph Pankowski
- Library > Mary McCarthy

- AARP > Ron Heinbaugh
- * Jennifer Geddes will be in charge of finding out what is on the agenda.
- * Contacts / liaisons will interact with the agency or with the head of that organization.
- * Can the commission be of any help to that agency in helping the Darien seniors and giving them better service?
- * Advise the agency as to the reason that they are there.
- * Members will report their findings back to the commission.

By the July meeting, Joseph Pankowski would like the contact/liaisons to give the dates when they would like to begin their assignments.

Norman Guimond advised members to find out who the contact person of the agency is and to set up a time and date to see them.

Ron Heinbaugh read the Senior Center Report:

- May 20 > The Library Program was on Memorial Day and all the memories attached to the day.
- May 26 > Jacqueline Pace spoke of her time spent in the Resistance in France. This was well received and a large crowd attended.
- June 1 > Tom Moran from 'Miracle Ear' spoke at the Center.
- Byron Mattjeys presented a Hodge Podge of summer flicks.
- June 15 > Nancy held a great discussion on diabetes.
- June 17 > The Volunteer Recognition Luncheon was held today with Joe Holmes providing the entertainment.
- June 22 > Seth Gross from Norwalk Hospital spoke on problems with Acid Reflex.
- June 29 > Sally Harding will speak on Fall Prevention.
- June 30 > We will be having a 1940's/50's Day. The dress code of that era is required.

I quote from Nancy:

"As I take my leave as Director of the Senior Center I thank you all for your support and kindness. If I have any regrets it's just one – I wish in my tenure I could have seen the renovation of the center or a new one. I hope I see your faces at my retirement send-off. Bless you all and stay healthy."

Ron Heinbaugh read the Thursday/Friday Report from Carolynn Lewis:

- Norwalk Community College's Life Time Learner's sponsored classes stopped at the end of May. However, the same classes in Acrylics and Oil Painting will continue at the center with the same instructors. The majority of the class members are choosing to continue.
- The new Senior Fitness class was a big success this month. A number of the older seniors with medical disabilities greatly benefited from the seated exercise. They meet in the dining room in a circle (we move one of the large tables) so even those in a wheelchair can participate. Ms. Baere handed out an exercise sheet for the group to practice at home, including breathing exercises. It will end this month because of the instructor's schedule, but we are planning to set up a new time and date in the near future.
- The Darien Senior Center and the Lapham Center travel to New York City this month to see the Tony award winning musical 'Jersey Boys'. The group will have lunch at a French bistro 'Les Sans Culottes' prior to the performance.

I quote from Carolynn:

"I was told on June 11, 2009, by Nancy Markey – Head of Human Resources, that my current position will be terminated as of June 26, 2009. I have submitted my resume for the Senior Center Coordinator position and will interview for it next Tuesday. If I do not get the position, this may be my final report to you. However, I have agreed to stay on as Acting Director, if the individual selected for the job cannot start on July 2, 2009. I want to thank you all for all of your support throughout the past seven years. I have loved every aspect of my job, most especially working with our seniors."

Olive Hauser passed out the Half-Price Taxi Vouchers flyers – for seniors 60+ and the disabled. They can purchase a \$25.00 book of vouchers for \$12.50. The program started on June 16th. For the time being only 'Eveready Taxi' is being used.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy Matteis.